## ACCREDITATION OF VA PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC LABORATORIES

- **1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines procedures necessary for the management and quality assurance of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories.
- **2. BACKGROUND:** In 2003, VA conducted a program evaluation of the care and treatment provided to veterans who utilize prosthetics, orthotics, and sensory aids services. It was determined that care and treatment to veterans was compromised because a majority of VA Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories did not meet all of the criteria for industry accreditation **NOTE:** Only five facilities were accredited as of January 15, 2003.
- a. On May 17, 2004, the Under Secretary for Health issued VHA Directive 2004-020, which mandated that all VHA Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories become accredited either through the American Board for Certification (ABC) or the Board for Orthotist and/or Prosthetist Certification (BOC).
  - b. As of October 1, 2006, 58 out of 63 laboratories are accredited by either ABC or BOC.
- **3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that as of January 7, 2007, only accredited Prosthetic and Orthotic laboratories are allowed to fabricate prostheses and orthoses; and pursuant to ABC and/or BOC criteria, only certified Prosthetists and Orthotists may independently fabricate prostheses and orthoses.
- **4. ACTION:** The medical center Director is responsible for:
- a. Ensuring the accreditation and/or certification status of laboratories and practitioners associated with those laboratories for VA medical centers that have Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratories.
  - b. Ensuring that no prostheses and orthoses are fabricated in an unaccredited laboratory.
- c. Ensuring that all non-certified prosthetists and orthotists provide clinical services only under the direct supervision their certified counterparts.
- **5. REFERENCES:** None.
- **6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** The Prosthetics and Clinical Logistics Office (10FP) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be directed to 202-254-0440.
- **7. RESCISSIONS:** None. This VHA Directive expires December 31, 2011.

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